Procurement and Prices of Essential Commodities

1764. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV RAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Financial Express dated the 7th June, 1993 captioned "Record procurement may help bring down prices of essential commodities";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a record procurement of wheat and rice during the current year as is given below:—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat (April—March)	Rice (Oct.—Sept.)
1990-91	110.74	126.71
1991-92	77.52	102.47
1992-93	63.80	130.26 (upto 30-7-93)
1993-94	128.29 (upto 30-7-93)	..

Source: Ministry of Food.

The production of edible oils is also estimated to be higher during the current year as compared to the previous years:—

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production
1989-90	45.66
1990-91	48.76
1991-92	49.66
1992-93	61.10 (estimated)

The higher procurement of rice and wheat are expected to have sobering effect on the prices. The distribution of these commodities through PDS directly helps the poor sections of the society as these are supplied at a cheaper rate than the market prices. The higher production of edible oils will help in keeping their prices under control

1765. [*Transferred to 13th August,* 1993.]

Property of Lodna Colliery at Dhanbad

1766. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that for the last several years, B.C.C.L. had been reporting that the plot No. 177 of Mouza Lodna, District Dhanbad did not belong to the Lodna Colliery and is thus not a part of the Nationalised coal company;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating the area of the land, the structures built on that land and its value at the present market price;

(c) whether it is a fact that now it has been proved that the entire land of Plot No. 177 belongs to Lodna colliery and is thus a national property; and